

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a device which is connected to a vehicle communications network (7, 8) the device being switched off, wherein a bus manager (1) detects that data communication with the switched-off device is necessary, and then the switched-off device is reactivated by the bus manager (1) via a frequency pulse transmitted over a power supply line (8).
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the frequency pulse is compared with a threshold value by an analyzer circuit (9, 10) of the switched-off device, and when the signal power of the frequency pulse exceeds the threshold, the switched-off device is reactivated.
3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the device is switched off by a frequency pulse, the frequency pulse being transmitted at a frequency which is detected by at least one analyzer circuit (9, 10) of a device of the vehicle communications network (7, 8).
4. The method according to Claim 2, wherein all the devices downstream from the switched-off device in a branch of the vehicle communications network (7, 8) are also switched off, and devices downstream from the reactivated device are also reactivated.
5. The method according to one of Claims 3 or 4, wherein the device is switched off and reactivated by the bus manager (1).
6. The method according to one of Claims 3 or 4, wherein the device shuts itself down and is reactivated by the bus manager (1).
7. A device for carrying out the method according to one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the device has the analyzer circuit (9, 10), and the analyzer circuit has a

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frequency-selective filter (9) and a threshold detector (10), the analyzer circuit (9, 10) being connected to the power supply line (8).

8. A bus manager for carrying out the method according to one of the Claims 1 through 6.

